



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
*Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.*

**H.R. 1390: “To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay costs relating to the transportation of certain deceased veterans to veterans' cemeteries owned by a State or tribal organization”**

**Background:**

Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is only allowed to pay for the costs of transporting a veteran's remains to the nearest open national cemetery. Current law does not authorize VA to cover transportation costs if a veteran is being buried in a state or tribal veterans cemetery.

H.R. 1390 would expand the VA Secretary's authority to pay for transportation costs if the families choose to have deceased veterans buried in a national cemetery, state veterans cemetery or tribal veterans cemetery. Under the bill, VA would pay expenses up to the cost of transporting the veteran's remains to the nearest national cemetery.

**The Message:**

- This bill would authorize VA to pay transportation expenses – up to the cost of transporting the deceased veteran to the closest national veterans cemetery – if the family prefers interment in a state or tribal veterans cemetery.
- Families should not be financially penalized for choosing to have their loved one laid to rest in a state or tribal veterans cemetery.
- This legislation will give the families of veterans more choices when deciding where to bury their loved one.